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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted at Prince George's Community College (PGCC) to monitor the number of transferring students and their progress at the senior institutions. The automated data collection systems of the Maryland Higher Education Commission made it possible to track student transfers among Maryland colleges and universities, and the College Park and Baltimore County campuses of the University of Maryland provided information on the academic standing of former PGCC students. Study findings concerning the fall 1987 status of students who had attended PGCC in fall 1986 included the following: (1) 41% of the students were still attending PGCC, 8% had transferred to a four-year institution, and 1% had transferred to another community college; (2) 64% of the full-time PGCC students, and 44% of the part-time students were still participating in higher education in fall 1987; (3) black students were less likely than white students to transfer to a four-year institution (4% versus 10%); (4) of the 1,181 students enrolled at the University of Maryland's College Park (UMCP) campus in fall 1987, 84% were in good academic standing, 9% had received unsatisfactory performance warnings, and 7% were dismissed at the end of the semester; (5) the mean cumulative grade point average for PGCC transfers at UMCP was 2.48, somewhat below the 2.54 average for all Maryland community college transfers attending the university; and (6) during the 1980s the number of PGCC students transferring to state four-year colleges and universities increased 7.5%. (AYC)

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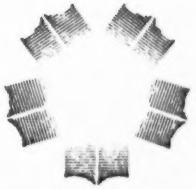

PRINCE GEORGE'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Office of Institutional Research and Analysis

Research Brief RB89-2
September 1988

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PGCC TRANSFER STUDENTS AT MARYLAND COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
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Introduction

Preparing students for transfer to a four-year college or university remains a key part of the community college mission. Half of the students enrolled in fall 1988 said preparation for transfer was their main reason for attending PGCC. How many students actually transfer from PGCC each year? How well do they do at their senior institutions? Such questions are basic to assessing the achievement of a major purpose of the community college.

Methodology

Tracking student transfers among Maryland colleges and universities is facilitated by the automated data collection systems of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (formerly the State Board for Higher Education). By matching student identification numbers submitted by each campus each fall (on the Enrollment Information Systems tapes), fall-to-fall movements can be traced. For example, we can identify where all the students enrolled at PGCC in fall 1986 were enrolled in fall 1987--with the exception of those who may have transferred to a private or out-of-state school. The analysis only tracks transfers within Maryland's public higher education institutions.

In addition to tracking the number of transferring students, we are interested in how well they do at their senior institutions. The College Park and Baltimore County campuses of the University of Maryland provide information on the academic standing of former community college students. We are able to compare the percent of former PGCC students in good standing at the University with other community college transfers. These data are for all former community college students enrolled at the University the semester the analysis is run, not just those recently transferring.

Most Recent Outcomes Indicators

The most recent transfer data available tracks the fall 1987 attendance of students enrolled at PGCC in fall 1986. The total number of fall 1986 PGCC students in the analysis was 12,300 (this is less than the official enrollment of 12,435 because the

state program randomly assigns students enrolled at more than one campus in the base fall term to a single institution in building the database for analysis). Forty-one percent of the students enrolled at PGCC in fall 1986 were still attending the college in fall 1987. Nine percent (1,057 students) had transferred to another Maryland public college or university. Nearly three-quarters of the transferring students moved to one of the five main campuses of the University of Maryland. The complete breakdown follows:

Fall 1987 Enrollment of Fall 1986 PGCC Students

Still attending PGCC	5,080	41%
Transferred to:		
University of Maryland College Park	434	4%
University of Maryland University College	277	2%
Bowie State University	58	
Towson State University	42	
University of Maryland Baltimore County	41	
Salisbury State University	27	
Frostburg State University	26	
University of Maryland at Baltimore	10	
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	8	
Morgan State University	7	
Saint Mary's College of Maryland	7	
University of Baltimore	3	
Total to Md. public 4-year	940	8%
Montgomery College	36	
Anne Arundel Community College	32	
Charles County Community College	24	
Howard Community College	12	
Community College of Baltimore	7	
Catonsville Community College	4	
Cecil Community College	1	
Frederick Community College	1	
Total to Md. community colleges	117	1%
Total transfers within Maryland public	1,057	9%
Enrolled in graduate or professional school	16	
Left Maryland system of public higher ed.	6,147	50%
Total fall 1986 PGCC students tracked	12,300	100%

Students counted as having left the Maryland system may have graduated, enrolled at a campus other than a Maryland public college or university, or left higher education. Students attending graduate or professional school (a total of 16) were not included in the transfer totals, which reflect only undergraduate enrollment.

Students enrolled full-time at PGCC in fall 1986 were more likely to be continuing their education in Maryland in fall 1987 than those enrolled part-time. Sixty-four percent of the fall 1986 PGCC full-timers were still enrolled in a Maryland public college or university in fall 1987, compared to 44 percent of the part-timers. A majority of the full-timers who transferred enrolled at the University of Maryland College Park. The most popular destination of the part-timers who transferred was the University of Maryland University College campus:

Fall 1987 Enrollment of Fall 1986 PGCC
Full- and Part-time Students

	FULL-TIME		PART-TIME	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Still attending PGCC	1,704	50%	3,376	38%
Transferred to UMCP	284	8%	150	2%
Transferred to UMUC	57	2%	220	3%
Transferred to Bowie	16	<1%	42	<1%
Total transfers to Md. 4-yr	468	14%	472	5%
Transferred to comm. coll.	34	1%	83	1%
Total transfers Md. public	502	15%	555	6%
Enrolled grad/prof school	0		16	
Left Maryland system	1,231	36%	4,916	56%
Total fall 1986 PGCC tracked	3,437	100%	8,863	100%

While a majority of the part-time students at PGCC in fall 1986 were not attending any state public college or university a year later, this does not necessarily mean they have dropped out of higher education. A study of PGCC entrants in fall 1980, analyzing their PGCC attendance patterns over 16 semesters, found nearly a third exhibiting stop-in/stop-out behavior. That a student may not have been enrolled in fall 1987 does not mean he or she has abandoned his or her college career.

Analysis of the 1986-87 transfer data by race found that black students were less likely than whites to have transferred to a four-year college or university in Maryland. Ten percent of the whites, compared to 4 percent of the blacks, had transferred over the 1986-87 period. University College was the most popular transfer school for the black students, with 40 percent of the total transferring choosing UMUC. College Park was most popular with white students, enrolling 45 percent of those transferring. Blacks and whites were equally likely to have continued at the community college:

Fall 1987 Enrollment of Fall 1986 PGCC
Black and White Students

	BLACK		WHITE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Still attending PGCC	1,965	41%	2,745	42%
Transferred to UMCP	48	1%	330	5%
Transferred to UMUC	82	2%	170	3%
Transferred to Bowie	31	1%	24	<1%
Total transfers to Md. 4-yr	195	4%	648	10%
Transferred to comm. coll.	11	<1%	85	1%
Total transfers Md. public	206	4%	733	11%
Enrolled grad/prof school	5		11	
Left Maryland system	2,618	55%	3,081	47%
Total fall 1986 PGCC tracked	4,794	100%	6,570	100%

The University of Maryland College Park is the most popular transfer school of PGCC students. How well do the former community college students do at College Park? A total of 1,181 former PGCC students were enrolled as undergraduates at UMCP in fall 1987. Eighty-four percent were in good academic standing. This was less than the 86 percent of all Maryland community college transfers at UMCP, and less than the 88 percent of all UMCP undergraduates enrolled in fall 1987. Nine percent of the PGCC transfers had received unsatisfactory performance warnings, and the remaining 7 percent (80 students) were dismissed at semester's end. The mean cumulative grade point average for PGCC transfers was 2.48, below the 2.54 for all Maryland community college transfers at UMCP in fall 1987.

Nearly a fourth of the former PGCC students were new to UMCP in fall 1987. Seventy percent had entered UMCP within the last two years:

Semester of Entry to UMCP of PGCC Transfers
Enrolled at UMCP in Fall 1987

Semester of UMCP Entry	Students	Percent
Fall 1987	271	22.9%
Summer 87	11	0.9
Spring 87	90	7.6
Fall 1986	186	15.8
Summer 86	12	1.0
Spring 86	85	7.2
Fall 1985	166	14.1
Summer 85	8	0.7
Spring 85	52	4.4
Fall 1984	105	8.9
Summer 84	6	0.5
Spring 84	19	1.6
Fall 1983	60	5.1
Summer 83	3	0.3
Spring 83	11	0.9
Fall 1982	30	2.5
Prior to Fall 82	66	5.6
Totals	1,181	100.0%

The former PGCC students had transferred an average of 43 credits to UMCP. Twenty-eight percent had transferred fewer than 30 credits. Forty-three percent had transferred between 30 and 59 credits. The remaining 29 percent had transferred 60 or more credits to UMCP:

Total Credit Hours Transferred to UMCP
PGCC Transfers Enrolled at UMCP in Fall 1987

Credit Hours Transferred	Students	Percent
0 - 14	167	14.1%
15 - 29	170	14.4
30 - 44	221	18.7
45 - 59	285	24.1
60 - 74	267	22.6
75 or more	71	6.0
Totals	1,181	100.0%

Seventy-two percent of the PGCC transfers at UMCP in fall 1987 were enrolled for 12 or more credit hours; the remaining 28 percent were attending UMCP part-time. Nearly a third of the students were taking 15 or more credits. How far along in their programs are the PGCC transfers? The distribution of cumulative credits earned at College Park is suggestive:

Number of Credits Earned at UMCP Since Admission
PGCC Transfers Enrolled at UMCP in Fall 1987

Credits Earned at UMCP	Students	Percent
0 - 14	307	26.0%
15 - 29	169	14.3
30 - 44	209	17.7
45 - 59	163	13.8
60 - 74	154	13.0
75 - 89	79	6.7
90 - 104	65	5.5
105 - 119	25	2.1
120 or more	10	0.9
Totals	1,181	100.0%

The PGCC transfer students were studying a wide variety of subjects at College Park. Social sciences and business programs were most popular:

Curriculum Choices of Former PGCC Students at UMCP
Students Enrolled at UMCP in Fall 1987

Curricular Area	Number	Percent
Social Sciences	237	20.1%
Business and Management	228	19.3
Engineering	117	9.9
Education	104	8.8
English/Journalism	102	8.6
Humanities	85	7.2
Natural Sciences/Mathematics	63	5.3
Criminal Justice	48	4.1
Computer Sciences	41	3.5
General Studies	38	3.2
Health	33	2.8
Agriculture/Horticulture	19	1.6
Other curricula	22	1.9
Undecided	44	3.7
Totals	1,181	100.0%

The specific curricula with the most former PGCC students enrolled in fall 1987 were Pre-Business (70 students), Economics (58), Government and Politics (58), Accounting (52), Psychology (48), English (37), and General Studies (37).

Time Series and Peer College Comparisons

Review of PGCC transfer activity to four-year public colleges and universities in Maryland during the 1980s found 1984-85 to be the high point. A total of 997 students enrolled at PGCC in fall 1984 were enrolled at a state senior college or university in fall 1985. Transfer activity declined to 952 in 1985-86 and 940 in 1986-87. Institutions with reduced PGCC transfers over this period included UMCP, Bowie State, and Towson State. Salisbury State and Frostburg State had gains in PGCC transfers over the 1984-87 period:

PGCC Transfers to Maryland Four-year Colleges and Universities from Fall-to-fall Enrollment Matrices

	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	84-85	85-86	86-87
UM--College Park	452	467	458	485	487	457	434
UM--Univ. Coll.	207	237	245	269	279	223	277
Bowie State	72	67	62	60	72	73	58
Towson State	35	30	53	41	63	58	42
UM--Balt. Cnty.	16	20	45	41	31	38	41
Salisbury State	28	26	19	18	16	24	27
Frostburg State	14	19	20	15	14	24	26
UM at Baltimore	21	10	6	5	7	11	10
UM--Eastern Shore	7	5	5	7	10	12	8
Morgan State	7	3	11	7	3	13	7
St. Mary's	11	8	7	7	10	15	7
Univ. of Balt.	4	6	5	4	5	3	3
Coppin State	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Total to 4-yr	874	898	936	961	997	952	940

SOURCE: Maryland Higher Education Commission. Numbers represent students enrolled at PGCC the first fall who appeared on the enrollment tapes of the four-year school the following fall. Thus 452 students at PGCC in fall 1980 were enrolled at UMCP in fall 1981.

Despite these recent changes, it is clear that UMCP and UMUC remain the primary transfer schools for PGCC students. Over three-fourths of all the transfer students identified by this

analysis during the 1980s transferred to either the College Park or University College campuses of the University of Maryland. About half of all the transfers went to College Park, with slightly over a quarter going to UMUC.

How well have PGCC transfers done at their four-year schools? While available information from the state's senior institutions is currently limited to two campuses of the University of Maryland, we are able to compare the academic standing and mean grade point averages (GPAs) of former PGCC students at College Park and UMBC with transfers from other Maryland community colleges. These data represent the academic records of all former community college students enrolled at the University the semester the analysis was run, not just of those most recently transferring. Information for UMCP and UMBC are presented below, in separate sections.

TRANSFERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK

Over a thousand former PGCC students have been enrolled at College Park each fall semester during the 1980s. The average credit hours transferred to UMCP by PGCC transfers has been stable at 43. In recent years, 83-84 percent of the PGCC transfers have been in good academic standing at UMCP. The average cumulative grade point average has been 2.5:

PGCC Transfers at the University of Maryland College Park

Fall	Total Students	Percent in Good Standing	Mean Cumulative GPA	Mean Hours Transferred
1987	1,181	84%	2.48	43
1986	1,254	83%	2.48	43
1985	1,263	83%	2.48	44
1984	1,201	84%	2.51	43
1983	1,114	78%	2.45	43
1982	1,004	80%	2.48	45
1981	1,085	79%	2.45	43
1980	1,082	80%	2.59	44

The percentage of PGCC transfers in good standing has been below that for all UMCP undergraduates every year for which we have data. Only once in the past five years has the percentage of PGCC transfers in good standing equalled the average of all Maryland community college transfers at UMCP. While the differences have not been large, they have been consistent:

Percent of Community College Transfers in Good Standing
at the University of Maryland College Park, Fall 1983-87
Peer College Comparison

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Prince George's	78% (1114)	84% (1201)	83% (1263)	83% (1254)	84% (1181)
Anne Arundel	80% (352)	86% (386)	83% (405)	84% (382)	86% (348)
Catonsville	79% (174)	85% (158)	89% (151)	83% (148)	83% (132)
Essex	70% (88)	81% (100)	85% (103)	87% (117)	91% (102)
Montgomery	80% (1896)	85% (1980)	86% (2165)	87% (2206)	87% (2170)
All Maryland CC's	79% (4203)	84% (4446)	85% (4703)	85% (4752)	86% (4584)
All UMCP undergrads	83%	86%	87%	88%	88%

SOURCE: State Board for Community Colleges, from data provided by Central Administration, the University of Maryland College Park.

An examination of mean cumulative grade point averages revealed a similar pattern, with PGCC transfers registering an average GPA consistently below that of all Maryland community college transfers to UMCP:

Mean Grade Point Averages of Community College Transfers
at the University of Maryland College Park, Fall 1983-87
Peer College Comparison

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Prince George's	2.45	2.51	2.48	2.48	2.48
Anne Arundel	2.55	2.62	2.50	2.49	2.55
Catonsville	2.59	2.47	2.55	2.46	2.49
Essex	2.25	2.60	2.57	2.59	2.63
Montgomery (Rockville)	2.55	2.61	2.58	2.59	2.58
All Maryland CC's	2.50	2.56	2.54	2.54	2.54

The average number of credits transferred to College Park by community college transfers enrolled at UMCP has been stable. The data suggest that PGCC students may transfer slightly earlier than other Maryland community college students, probably explained by the proximity of PGCC to College Park:

Mean Credit Hours Transferred by Community College Transfers at the University of Maryland College Park, Fall 1983-87
Peer College Comparison

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Prince George's	43	43	44	43	43
Anne Arundel	46	46	49	48	47
Catonsville	45	38	40	41	44
Essex	50	51	56	52	55
Montgomery (Rockville)	45	47	47	47	46
All Maryland CC's	44	45	46	45	45

Transfers from PGCC have accounted for over a fourth of all Maryland community college transfers to UMCP over the past five years.

TRANSFERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY

The University of Maryland Baltimore County campus is the only other campus for which we have comparative academic data on the performance of community college transfers. Less than five percent of PGCC transfer students go to UMBC. Fewer than 100 former PGCC students are enrolled in any given fall semester. Enrollment data for this decade follow:

PGCC Transfers at the University of Maryland Baltimore County

Fall	Total Students	Percent in Good Standing	Mean Cumulative GPA
1987	87	86%	2.57
1986	95	86%	2.65
1985	80	94%	NA
1984	64	94%	NA
1983	55	82%	NA
1982	36	75%	NA
1981	33	79%	NA
1980	19	74%	NA

The percentage of PGCC transfers in good academic standing at UMBC has ranged from 82 to 94 percent over the past five fall terms. PGCC's percentage exceeded the average for all Maryland community college transfers two times, was below it two times, and equalled it once:

Percent of Community College Transfers in Good Standing at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Fall 1983-87
Peer College Comparison

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Prince George's	82% (55)	94% (64)	94% (80)	86% (95)	86% (87)
Anne Arundel	88% (247)	84% (250)	95% (270)	89% (279)	89% (273)
Catonsville	82% (252)	82% (295)	91% (340)	89% (395)	89% (423)
Essex	82% (98)	85% (105)	92% (117)	87% (156)	89% (152)
Montgomery	80% (135)	86% (132)	94% (142)	89% (174)	96% (163)
All Maryland CC's	82%	83%	93%	89%	90%

SOURCE: State Board for Community Colleges, from data provided by the UMBC Office of Institutional Research.

Summary

During the 1980s, the number of PGCC students transferring to state four-year colleges and universities has increased 7.5 percent. This is less than half the increase for all Maryland community college transfers:

Community College Transfers to Maryland Four-year Schools

	Fall-to-fall transfer 80-81	83-84	86-87	Percent Change 81-87
Total PGCC transfers to Md. 4-year colleges	874	961	940	7.5%
Total Md. community college transfers to Md. 4-year	4,907	5,784	5,807	18.3%

During this six-year time period, PGCC credit enrollment decreased 9.5 percent (from 13,747 in fall 1980 to 12,435 in fall 1986), while total Maryland community college enrollment increased 1 percent (from 93,027 to 93,908). Taking these enrollment changes into account, the rate of transfer of PGCC students increased from 6 to nearly 8 percent, while the transfer rate for all Maryland community colleges increased from 5 to 6 percent. Thus, despite the recent decline in the number of PGCC transfers to Maryland four-year schools, the proportion of PGCC students transferring has increased over the decade, and remains above the statewide average for community colleges. However, the available evidence on academic standing and grade point averages suggests that PGCC students do marginally less well than transfers from Maryland community colleges as a whole.

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